



**LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC POLICY
COMMITTEE (LPPC)
MEETING NOTICE/AGENDA**

Posted at www.scdd.ca.gov

DATE: October 17, 2013

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Council on Developmental Disabilities
1507 21st Street, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95811
916/322-8481

Teleconference Site:

**Area Board 7
2580 North First Street, Suite 240
San Jose, CA 95131**

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in the meeting, should contact Michael Brett at 916/322-8481 or michael.brett@scdd.ca.gov by 5 pm on October 11, 2013.

Page

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|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER | R. Ceragioli |
| 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM | R. Ceragioli |

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS | R. Ceragioli | |
| 4. APPROVAL OF 8/22/13 MINUTES | R. Ceragioli | 3 |
| 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS | | |

This item is for members of the public to comment and/or present information to the Council. Each person will be afforded up to three minutes to speak. Written requests, if any, will be considered first. The Council will also provide a public comment period, not to exceed a total of seven minutes, for public comment prior to action on each agenda item.

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|---|--------------|----|
| 6. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES | | |
| A. Summary of State Legislation Outcomes | M. Polit | 7 |
| B. Legislative Platform | M. Polit | |
| 7. PROPOSAL FOR A SERVICE DOG DAY | M. Polit | 25 |
| 8. FORMATION OF AN EDUCATION POLICY SUBGROUP | J. Lewis | |
| 9. NEXT STEPS – POLICY FOCUS OF COUNCIL | | |
| A. Priorities for Restoring Budget Cuts | C. Arroyo | |
| B. Policy Focus of Council | M. Polit | |
| 10. NEXT MEETING AND 2014 CALENDAR | R. Ceragioli | |
| 11. ADJOURNMENT | R. Ceragioli | |

DRAFT
Legislative & Public Policy Committee (LPPC) Minutes
August 22, 2013

Members Present

Ray Ceragioli, Chair
Jennifer Allen
Brian Gutierrez
Connie Lapin
Tho Vinh Banh
David Forderer
Janelle Lewis
David Mulvaney
April Lopez

Members Absent

Lisa Davidson
Dan Boomer

Others Present

Mark Polit
Bob Phillips
Michael Brett
Barbara Wheeler

1. CALL TO ORDER

Janelle Lewis, substituting for the Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

A quorum was established.

3. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members introduced themselves and announcements were made.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2013 MINUTES

Jennifer Allen moved and Connie Lapin seconded to approve the June 13, 2013 minutes, as amended to list Janelle Lewis as a member. Motion passed 4-0-2.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Lapin reported that SB 468, Self-Determination passed Assembly Human Services Committee unanimously. April Lopez shared stories from the day advocating for the bill and events at the hearing. All discussed the power of consumers and families standing up for this piece of legislation and how that pressure moved it forward. Chairman Ceragioli resumed as Chair.

6. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

A. State Legislation.

i. Update on Legislation with Council Position - Mark Polit updated the committee on the status of this legislation.

ii. Equity - The committee discussed the status of bills affecting the equitable distribution of regional center services. Tho Vinh Banh explained that the main provision of SB 319 (Price), on data collection by regional centers, were incorporated into trailer bill language is now in statute. A more uniform and accessible data release opens up a lot of opportunities for local communities to address the issues with their regional centers. Dr. Wheeler suggested the goal should be communities organizing to advocate with regional centers. It was discussed that people should not go alone to regional centers to advocate, but go in groups so they will feel less vulnerable.

SB 321 (Price) which would have included equity outcomes in regional center performance contracts did not move forward. Dr. Wheeler suggested that this bill pertaining would have been a promising way to help increase equity. SB 555 (Correa) on the IPP process and AB 1232 (Perez) on the quality assessment process had moved forward.

The committee noted that in statute the SCDD may recommend additional questions for inclusion in the quality assessment instrument (the NCI). The committee recommended that SCDD staff work with Tho Vinh Banh to develop additional questions for the NCI to help California look more in depth at equity and linguistic and cultural competence of services.

B. Legislative Platform and Existing Policies

The committee gave input on the draft legislative platform.

C. Federal Legislation (WIA)

Mark Polit briefly summarized the importance of the bi-partisan Workforce Investment Act re-authorization bill introduced by Senators Harkin and Alexander.

7. PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for October 17, 2013, after the Governor has taken action on all bills.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ceragioli adjourned the meeting at 3:03 PM.



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

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September 9, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: SB555 (Correa) – Linguistic Access - Regional Centers, IPP and IFSP
SUPPORT – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown,

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities is established pursuant to federal and state law to advocate for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to assist the state in planning to better support their independence and productivity.

The Council supports SB 555 (Correa). This bill would reinforce existing laws and regulations by requiring that regional centers communicate and provide written materials in the family's or consumer's native language during the intake, assessment, and Individual Program Plan (IPP) and Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) processes. The legislation also requires that regional centers document the consumer or family's native language in the IPP/IFSP.

Ethnic disparities exist within the regional center system for consumers and family members with limited English proficiency and diverse cultural backgrounds. People cannot meaningfully participate in planning for their or their children's services and supports, if they do not understand what is happening or what their options are. This bill ensures that individuals with developmental disabilities from diverse communities have language access to better participate in the regional center service system. For these reasons, the Council urges your signature on SB 555.

If you have any questions, please call Mark Polit, Deputy Director of Policy and Planning at 916-208-3823. Thank you for considering the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Jorge Aguilar, Chair
State Council on Developmental Disabilities

"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."

CC: The Honorable Senator Lou Correa

CC: Lark Park, Deputy Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

CC: Eric Gelber, Legislative Director, Department of Developmental Services



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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September 19, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE - AB 602 (Yamada)
State Facilities - Reporting abuse and peace officer training**

Dear Governor Brown,

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities is established pursuant to federal and state law to advocate for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to assist the state in planning to better support their independence and productivity.

The Council asks for your signature on AB 602 (Yamada). The Council has long been concerned with the high rates of victimization of people with developmental disabilities. Sexual, physical and mental abuses are events that can inflict damage on people for a life time. Recent incidents at developmental centers and the community highlight the breadth of the problem and the difficulty of addressing it. The Council's 2003 report, *Abuse and Neglect of Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Public Health Priority for the State of California*, listed several areas for action, including reporting and investigation of abuse, addressed in part by the bill.

AB 602 would require the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to establish and keep updated a continuing education classroom training on law enforcement intervention with mentally disabled persons, and require that law enforcement personnel with jurisdiction over state hospitals and developmental centers receive this training. These facilities would be required to "immediately" report specific incidents, including death and sexual assault, to local law enforcement and to coordinate its investigation with them.

We urge your approval and signature on AB 602(Yamada). If you have any questions, please call Mark Polit, Deputy Director of Policy and Planning at 916-208-3823.

Sincerely,

LSI

Roberta Newton
Interim Executive Director

"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."

Cc: Assembly Member Yamada
cc: Eric Gelber, Legislative Director, Department of Developmental Services



State Council on Developmental Disabilities



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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September 19, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE - SB 651(Pawley and Leno)
Developmental Centers and State Hospitals
Abuse Reporting and Investigation**

Dear Governor Brown,

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities is established pursuant to federal and state law to advocate for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to assist the state in planning to better support their independence and productivity.

The Council asks for your signature on SB 651 (Pavley and Leno). The Council has long been concerned with the high rates of victimization of people with developmental disabilities. Sexual, physical and mental abuses are events that can inflict damage on people for a life time. Recent incidents at Sonoma Developmental Center highlight the urgency of addressing the issue. The Council's 2003 report, *Abuse and Neglect of Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Public Health Priority for the State of California*, listed several areas for action, including reporting and investigation of abuse.

SB 651 would require that a suspected victim of sexual assault at developmental centers and state hospitals be provided a medical evidentiary exam performed at an appropriate external facility, or internally by an independent investigator under certain circumstances. Failure to report specified assaults, deaths and injuries to external law enforcement would result in a Class B Citation. This bill will make it more likely that perpetrators of sexual assault at these facilities will be identified and punished.

We urge your approval and signature on SB 651(Pavley and Leno). If you have any questions, please call Mark Polit, Deputy Director of Policy and Planning at 916-208-3823. Thank you for considering the Council's position.

Sincerely,

RS

Roberta Newton
Interim Executive Director

"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."

cc: Senator Fran Pavley
cc: Senator Mark Leno
cc: Eric Gelber, Legislative Director, Department of Developmental Services



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August 7, 2013

The Honorable Kevin de León, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: SUPPORT - AB 1041 (Chesbro)
Employment First Policy**

Dear Senator de León,

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities is established pursuant to federal and state law to advocate for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to assist the state in planning to better support their independence and productivity. Additionally, the Council is required, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4868, to establish an Employment First Committee to advise the state on the adoption of an employment first policy and other policy issues affecting the employment of people with developmental disabilities. We are required to annually report to the Governor and Legislature on the status of the state's efforts to support people with developmental disabilities to gain employment.

The Council is pleased to be a sponsor of AB 1041. This legislation would make it the policy of the state that *opportunities for integrated competitive employment shall be given the highest priority for working age individuals with developmental disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities.*

There is a great need for this policy. Based on EDD data, only 12.45% of working age people with developmental disabilities are employed. Unfortunately, this includes many people working very few hours a week, making sub-minimum wage, and working in segregated facilities. These appalling employment statistics represent wasted talents, deferred dreams, and hundreds of millions in unnecessary costs to the state supporting people in non-work day services.

The policy included in AB 1041 is the product of seven years of work by the Legislature, the Council, and the developmental services stakeholder community. In 2006, SB 1270 (Chesbro) directed the Council to work with stakeholders and report to the Legislature on strategies to achieve better employment outcomes. The Council's report to the Legislature led to AB 287 (Beall) which established an Employment First Committee of the Council. The committee's first task was to work with stakeholders and recommend to the Legislature an employment first policy. That policy, *"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."*

which the Legislature asked for, is embodied in AB 1041. It is crafted as a consensus position within the developmental disabilities community, and has no opposition.

This policy will improve the state's ability to achieve one of the goals of the Lanterman Act over the last 40 years, that people with developmental disabilities be supported *"to approximate the pattern of everyday living available to people without disabilities of the same age,... to be integrated into the mainstream of life in their home communities"* and receive services and supports that enable them to live *"more independent, productive, and normal lives"* (WIC Section 4501).

Twenty-two states already have an employment first policy, red states and blue states, because (1) work is a value we all share, and (2) when people are employed they rely less on state supports.

This policy is central to the efforts of many stakeholders, advocacy groups, and departments who are trying to increase opportunities for employment in regular jobs. The policy will not add services, but will cause a shift in emphasis, and a change of direction in the use of current resources. This policy will enshrine as a central value of the Lanterman Act the dignity of work and the chance to earn one's way.

The Employment First Policy is NOT about HOW MUCH money to spend on services, it is about HOW to spend it. Currently, more than 97% of regional center day service dollars are spent on non-work and segregated or subminimum wage work services. This policy seeks to re-direct some of those expenditures to integrated competitive employment, which costs less as a service and results in individuals earning competitive wages.

Employment First does not give people with developmental disabilities something MORE, it offers them something DIFFERENT: A chance for a regular job, in their community, with decent pay; a chance to contribute and be valued at a work site; a chance to make friends with co-workers and be more a part of their communities; and a chance to pull themselves out of poverty and reduce their reliance on state support.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Polit, Deputy Director of Policy and Planning, at 916-322-8481.

Sincerely,



Roberta Newton
Interim Executive Director



State Council on Developmental Disabilities



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August 23, 2013

The Honorable John A. Perez, Speaker
California Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Gail Gronert

Subject: SUPPORT - SB 468: Self Determination

Dear Assembly Member Perez,

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities is established pursuant to federal and state law to advocate for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to assist the state in planning to better support their independence and productivity.

The Council supports SB 468 (Emmerson – Beall), which would expand the Self-Determination Pilots by establishing a statewide Self-Determination program to be phased in with up to 2500 participants over three years, then opened to all regional center clients.

People with developmental disabilities have suffered the historic oppression of institutionalization, having their lives controlled, and being marginalized and impoverished. Self-Determination can give people the means to control their lives, truly participate in their communities, make friends who are not paid to be their “friends”, and strive to pull themselves out of poverty.

Self-Determination is already available in 29 states and demonstrates consistent improvements in quality of life for people in the programs. Combined with structural safeguards, it puts people with developmental disabilities and their families, if appropriate, in control of the money the state spends on their supports. This has led to innovations in providing supports to people at lower cost and higher quality than traditional services. And most importantly, self-determination gives a person not only the authority to control their own service funds, but the responsibility to spend the money wisely.

The California pilots and the Self-Determination programs throughout the country have been studied multiple times. In state after state, and time and time again, it has been shown, that when people are given responsibility for their service dollars and service outcomes, they spend state resources carefully, enjoy a higher quality of life, experience greater freedom and community participation, and use less funding overall.

“The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families.”

Self-Determination gives families and consumers from underserved and immigrant populations the ability to create services and hire workers from within their own communities – creating supports that respect their traditions, are linguistically competent, and reflects their unique cultural strengths.

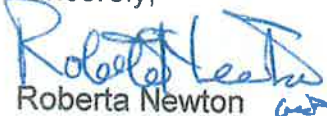
Self-Determination is not just another program. It is a civil rights issue. It assures people basic human dignity and the tools to take responsibility for their lives. This legislation has ignited the hopes and the passions of people with developmental disabilities and their families. It is no wonder that SB 468 has passed through the Senate and now the Assembly policy committee with no opposing votes.

Self-Determination is central to the vision of the Council that people with developmental disabilities are guaranteed the same full and equal opportunities for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

For these reasons the Council supports SB 468, Self-Determination.

If you have any questions please call Mark Polit, Deputy Director of Policy and Planning, at 916-208-3823. Thank you for considering the Council's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roberta Newton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roberta Newton
Interim Executive Director



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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September 19, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE - AB 620 (Buchanan)
Health Facilities, Safety Plans**

Dear Governor Brown,

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities is established pursuant to federal and state law to advocate for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to assist the state in planning to better support their independence and productivity.

The Council asks for your signature on AB 620, which would require specified licensed health facilities, group homes and day programs, including those for people with developmental disabilities, to create individualized safety plans for their residents. These plans would typically be included in the existing individual service plans that these facilities are already required to prepare.

The additional information that AB 620 would require of these plans would include specifying when or if law enforcement and an authorized representative would be notified in the event that the person is missing from the facility.

These additional requirements would assist people on the planning teams, including the individual served, to plan ahead for these circumstances, instead of having the health facility make its own determination when a person is suddenly discovered to be missing.

We urge your approval and signature on AB 620. For questions, please call Mark Polit, Deputy Director of Policy and Planning, 916-208-3823.

Sincerely,


Jorge Aguilar
Chairperson

cc: Assembly Member Joan Buchanan

cc: Eric Gelber, Legislative Director, Department of Developmental Services

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September 19, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE - SB 126 (Steinberg)
Autism Treatment - Insurance Coverage**

Dear Governor Brown,

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities is established pursuant to federal and state law to advocate for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to assist the state in planning to better support their independence and productivity.

The Council asks for your signature on SB 126 (Steinberg), which would extend the provisions of SB 946, Statutes of 2011, until July 1, 2017, thus requiring healthcare plans and insurers to continue to provide coverage of behavioral health treatments as outlined in SB 946.

SB 946 was an achievement supporting the rights of individuals with autism to receive the treatments they need through their insurance coverage. This legislation has also led to substantial cost savings to the state, estimated at \$80 million per year.

Unfortunately, budget language recently signed into law has undermined the intent of both SB 946 and SB 126. As a result, many of the very families that worked hard to pass SB 946 are now penalized for having a family insurance plan that covers their child.

For regional center clients, behavioral health therapies had been paid for by the regional centers, at no cost to the families. SB 946 effectively shifted the costs of these therapies from regional centers to insurance companies, saving the state General Fund roughly \$80 million annually. However, due to the nature of insurance policies, families were now faced with paying co-pays or co-insurance and deductibles.

There was initial confusion by regional centers on how to treat the co-pay issue. So they sought a legal opinion which found that, under the Lanterman Act, they were required to reimburse families for co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles when those services were in the child's Individual Program Plan or Individual Family Service Plan. The net result of SB 946 and those protections of the Lanterman Act meant that the state would save roughly 90% on the

"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."

cost of those therapies now covered by insurance, while reimbursing families for the roughly 10% of the costs they would be paying in co-pays or co-insurance and deductibles.

Unfortunately, the trailer bill amended the Lanterman Act to make it optional for regional centers to reimburse families for co-pays and co-insurance, forbid any reimbursements to families earning over 400% of the federal poverty limit (\$94,000 for a family of 4), and forbid regional centers from reimbursing deductibles. Thus the state effectively transferred roughly 10% of the costs of these therapies from the regional centers to the families.

These changes will cause many families to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket for therapies critical to their child's development, force many families to stop treatment because they can't afford it, and prompt many families to consider removing their child from their insurance plan – so their regional center could then pay for the entire cost of the treatment.

SB 946 and SB 126 are significant achievement in requiring insurance companies to cover behavioral health therapy for what is clearly a medical condition. Families fought for these bills as a matter of justice and gaining greater access to necessary services. These bills were intended to benefit both the State General Fund and children with autism. However, the action of the Legislature and Administration through the budget process has undermined the intent of this legislation and harmed the families who fought hard to achieve it. We eagerly desire to work with the Administration and the Legislature over the next several months to restore the rights of these families under the Lanterman Act.

We urge your approval and signature on SB 126. If you have any questions, please call Mark Polit, Deputy Director of Policy and Planning at 916-208-3823. Thank you for considering the Council's position.

Sincerely,


Jorge Aguilar
Chairperson

cc: The Honorable Darrell Steinberg, President Pro-Tempore, California Senate
cc: Eric Gelber, Legislative Director, Department of Developmental Services



STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK

Self-Advocacy
Representatives from:

- ❖ Area Board 1
- ❖ Area Board 2
- ❖ Area Board 3
- ❖ Area Board 4
- ❖ Area Board 5
- ❖ Area Board 6
- ❖ Area Board 7
- ❖ Area Board 8
- ❖ Area Board 9
- ❖ Area Board 10
- ❖ Area Board 11
- ❖ Area Board 12
- ❖ Area Board 13
- ❖ Association of
Regional Center
Agencies
- ❖ CFILC
- ❖ California People
First
- ❖ CEDD UC Davis
MIND Institute
- ❖ Disability Rights
California
- ❖ State Council on
Developmental
Disabilities
- ❖ UCEDD UCLA
- ❖ UCEDD USC

SSAN
c/o SCDD
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95811
916-322-8481
916-443-4957(fax)

September 26, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE AB 1041 (Chesbro), Employment First Policy

Dear Governor Brown,

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is an organization of self-advocacy leaders with representatives from many major organizations with significant self-advocacy participation. Our purpose is to connect self-advocates their communities, and statewide organizations to increase leadership by persons with disabilities.

The SSAN urges you to sign AB 1041 (Chesbro), the Employment First Policy. AB 1041 would make it the priority of the regional center system to support people with developmental disabilities in their desire to work, contribute, and earn a decent wage.

We are grateful for services and supports that allow us to live in our communities. But we also want to contribute to our communities and earn our way. With the right supports people with developmental disabilities can have regular jobs, at regular work sites, and get paid the same wages as others without disabilities doing the same work. With the right supports, we can work to pull ourselves out of poverty. And these employment supports cost the state less than typical regional center services.

When people work, they rely less on state support. We want to work, and we can. Self-Advocates have asked for Employment First. We were involved in 2006 in helping pass SB 1270 that lead to recommendations on improving employment supports. In 2009 we helped pass AB 287 which established the Employment First Committee and asked the State Council to recommend an employment first policy. And our voices led the way this year to pass AB 1041, Employment First. Now we raise our voices again and ask for your signature on AB 1041.

Thank you for hearing us.

Sincerely,

Trena Wade / man

Trena Wade
Acting Chairperson

cc: Lark Park, Deputy Legislative Secretary
cc: Eric Gelber, Legislative Director, Department of Developmental Services
cc: Senator Bill Emerson
cc: Senator Jim Beall
cc: Assemblymember Holly Mitchel
cc: Assemblymember Wes Chesbro



STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK

Self-Advocacy
Representatives from:

- ❖ Area Board 1
- ❖ Area Board 2
- ❖ Area Board 3
- ❖ Area Board 4
- ❖ Area Board 5
- ❖ Area Board 6
- ❖ Area Board 7
- ❖ Area Board 8
- ❖ Area Board 9
- ❖ Area Board 10
- ❖ Area Board 11
- ❖ Area Board 12
- ❖ Area Board 13
- ❖ Association of
Regional Center
Agencies
- ❖ CFILC
- ❖ California People
First
- ❖ CEDD UC Davis
MIND Institute
- ❖ Disability Rights
California
- ❖ State Council on
Developmental
Disabilities
- ❖ UCEDD UCLA
- ❖ UCEDD USC

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September 26, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE
SB 468, Self-Determination**

Dear Governor Brown,

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is an organization of self-advocacy leaders with representatives from many major organizations with significant self-advocacy participation. Our purpose is to connect self-advocates, their communities, and statewide organizations to increase leadership by persons with disabilities.

The SSAN urges you to sign SB 468 (Emmerson/Beall), Self-Determination. Just as one shoe size does not fit all, services for people with developmental disabilities need to be flexible to meet individual needs. SB 468 would give regional center clients the option to choose Self-Determination, if they decide it is the right fit for them. It will be a 100% voluntary service option. It will also be cost neutral to the state.

People with developmental disabilities have struggled for many years against being housed in institutions, against being segregated, marginalized, ignored, taught to be compliant and helpless, and having others make decisions for us. We have struggled to be part of our communities, to contribute, to have friends, and to be employed. Self-Determination will help a great deal with all of this. But Self-Determination is also about something more fundamental: The ability to pursue happiness in the ways that we choose.

Self-Determination will allow us to take responsibility for our lives and our choices. Many of us will need support from friends, family and professionals to do this. But, in this country, a person deserves no less.

The seeds of Self-Determination were planted with the Lanterman Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Your signature on SB 468 will be the next great step in our long struggle to be truly a part of the interdependent fabric of society. Thank you for listening to us.

Sincerely,

Trena Wade
Acting Chairperson

cc: Lark Park, Deputy Legislative Secretary
cc: Eric Gelber, Legislative Director, Department of Developmental Services
cc: Senator Bill Emerson
cc: Senator Jim Beall
cc: Assemblymember Holly Mitchel
cc: Assemblymember Wes Chesbro

June 24, 2013

Edward Crane
8482 Chickadee Lane
Clovis, CA 93619

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
c/o Mr. Thomas Johnson
1507 21st Street, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: 2013 International Assistance Dog Week, "August 4 - 10, 2013"

Dear Mr. Johnson,

My name is Edward Crane and I am a handicapped resident of Clovis, California who has an "Assistance Dog" who helps me deal with my physical handicap. My dog is named "Alepo", a White Labrador Retriever, who warns me in advance of my "brain seizures" every day. "Alepo" has helped restore a level of normalcy in my life for me.

"Assistance Dogs" transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their devoted companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family. "Assistance Dogs" include: Guide Dogs, Hearing Alert Dogs, Seizure Alert/Response Dogs, Service Dogs and Medical Alert/Response Dogs.

"International Assistance Dog Week" was created to recognize all the devoted, hard working "Assistance Dogs" helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations. In addition to honoring "Assistance Dogs" during this special week, one of the goals is to raise awareness to the general public about these very special and highly trained dogs. This year "International Assistance Dog Week" is August 4th - 10th.

Mr. Johnson, it is important that we recognize: "International Assistance Dog Week" here in the "State of California", on August 4th - 10th. This will be an inspiration to all the residents with a disability whose lives have already been changed for the better because of their "Assistance Dogs", plus it will inspire others with a disability to see if an "Assistance Dog" could change their lives for the better.

Mr. Johnson, I am requesting that the "State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)" help us with the "2013 International Assistance Dog Week" and recognize all "Assistance Dogs", here in California for transforming the lives of their "human partners" with physical disabilities. I am requesting a "Proclamation" from the "Governor" to show my "State's" support of our "Assistance Dogs", this is a very important request. Thank you

Sincerely,



Edward Crane



August 4-10, 2013

www.assistedogweek.org

2013 International Assistance Dog Week Fact Sheet

When is it?

International Assistance Dog Week is August 4-10, 2013.

What is it?

International Assistance Dog Week was created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability-related limitations

What do assistance dogs do?

Assistance Dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family.

What are the goals of International Assistance Dog week?

The goals are to recognize and honor the hardworking assistance dogs; raise awareness and educate the public about how these specially trained animals are aiding so many people in our communities; honor the puppy raisers and trainers of assistance dogs; and recognize heroic deeds performed by assistance dogs in our communities.

Are all assistance dogs retrievers or are they other breeds as well?

Assistance Dogs can be from a variety of breeds including, but not limited to: Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Standard Poodles, as well as shelter dogs.

Where can I get more information about Assistance Dogs?

You can go to the websites for International Assistance Dog Week (www.assistedogweek.org) and Working Like Dogs (www.workinglikedogs.com). You can also check out Assistance Dogs International (www.assistedogsinternational.org) and the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (www.iaadp.org).

What kind of activities can I take part in during International Assistance Dog Week?

You can take part in an event someone else is organizing in your community or organize your own. It can be small or large. See the list of suggested events that is part of this package or find it posted on the International Assistance Dog Week website, www.assistedogweek.org.

International Assistance Dog Week

PO Box 4578

Santa Fe, NM 87502

1-866-445-3647

International Assistance Dog Week is a program of Soulful Presence, a 501(c) 3 organization

Who is sponsoring International Assistance Dog Week?

International Assistance Dog Week was established due to the efforts of Marcie Davis, a paraplegic for over 35 years and CEO of Davis Innovations, a consulting firm based in Santa Fe, NM. Davis is the author of "Working Like Dogs: The Service Dog Guidebook," and she is the host of the Internet radio program, "Working Like Dogs," at www.petliferadio.com. International Assistance Dog Week is facilitated as a program of Soulful Presence, a nonprofit Davis established to empower underserved populations.

What types of assistance dogs are there?

While many people are familiar with Guide Dogs, those that assist people with vision loss, not as many people are aware of the other types of assistance dogs working today. Here is a description of the various types of assistance dogs:

- Guide Dogs – Assist people with vision loss, leading these individuals around physical obstacles and to destinations such as seating, crossing streets, entering or exiting doorways, elevators and stairways.

- Service Dogs – Assist people with disabilities with walking, balance, dressing, transferring from place to place, retrieving and carrying items, opening doors and drawers, pushing buttons, pulling wheelchairs and aiding with household chores, such as putting in and removing clothes from the washer and dryer.

- Hearing Alert Dogs – Alert people with a hearing loss to the presence of specific sounds such as doorbells, telephones, crying babies, sirens, another person, buzzing timers or sensors, knocks at the door or smoke, fire and clock alarms.

- Seizure Alert/Seizure Response Dogs – Alert or respond to medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, post-traumatic stress and seizures.

- Medical Alert/Medical Response Dogs – Alert to oncoming medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Are assistance dogs allowed to go in to restaurants and other businesses even though other pets can't?

Yes, assistance dogs are allowed to accompany their human partners to places of business including restaurants and shops. Under state law and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), they are guaranteed equal access to any and all establishments and accommodations; no extra charge can be levied because of the dog.



SEEING / HEARING / SENSING / SUPPORTING
There's a dog for that!

Aug. 4-10
2013



Canine Partners *for* Life





"Assistance Dogs increase independence and quality of life for people with disabilities."



"Assistance Dogs restore a level of normalcy to handicapped individuals".





**To some people,
dogs are family
companions...**



**To some people,
a dog makes it
possible for them
to live a normal life...**

**Either way,
it's fair to say
a dog is a hero
in every possible way.**



Ed Crane and "Alepo" helping me do my banking.



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1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1



Gateway to Veteran health & wellness

VA » Veterans Health Administration » Assistance Dogs Transform Lives of Veteran Partners

Veterans Health Administration

Assistance Dogs Transform Lives of Veteran Partners

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It's "Assistance Dog Week" August 5-11, 2012

This is International Assistance Dog Week, created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations.

Many Veterans are living more fulfilled lives thanks to their service dog. VA prescribing clinicians review and evaluate individual cases based on the needs described here:

www.va.gov/health/ServiceAndGuideDogs.asp


Assistance dogs transform the lives of their Veteran partners with debilitating physical disabilities. These highly specialized dogs perform tasks for the Veterans that the Veteran cannot perform without assistance.

"If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went."

— Will Rogers

Guide Dogs assist blind and visually impaired Veterans avoid obstacles, stop at curbs and steps, and negotiate traffic. These exceptional dogs enable the Veteran to more fully participate in their communities by ensuring that the Veteran can safely negotiate almost any environment.

Hearing Dogs assist deaf and hard of hearing individuals by alerting them to a variety of household sounds such as a door knock or doorbell, alarm clock, oven buzzer, telephone, baby cry, name call or smoke alarm, as well as alerting the Veteran to emergency vehicle sirens or warning alarms outside the home.

Mobility Dogs assist mobility-impaired Veterans, including Veterans with disabling seizures, by retrieving objects that are out of the Veteran's reach, opening and closing doors, turning light switches on and off, assisting Veterans to walk by providing balance and counterbalance, barking to indicate help is needed, finding another person, and leading the person to the handler.

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Veterans Crisis Line:
1-800-273-8255 (Press 1)

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ADMINISTRATION

[Veterans Health Administration](#)
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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs | 310 Vermont Avenue, NW | Washington DC 20420
LAST UPDATED MAY 22, 2013

2013 International Assistance Dog Week Sample Proclamation

International Assistance Dog Week, August 4-10, 2013

Whereas, assistance dogs transform the lives of their human partners with physical and mental disabilities;

Whereas, they serve as devoted companions, helpers, aides, best friends and close family members;

Whereas, assistance dogs include service dogs, guide dogs, hearing alert dogs and alert/seizure response dogs;

Whereas, guide dogs assist people with vision loss, leading these individuals around physical obstacles and to destinations such as seating, crossing streets, entering or exiting doorways, elevators and stairways, etc.;

Whereas, service dogs assist people with disabilities with walking, balance, dressing, transferring from place to place, retrieving and carrying items, opening doors and drawers, pushing buttons, pulling wheelchairs and aiding with household chores such as putting in and removing clothes from the washer and dryer;

Whereas, hearing alert dogs alert people with a hearing loss to the presence of specific sounds such as doorbells, telephones, crying babies, sirens, another person, buzzing timers or sensors, knocks at the door as well as smoke, fire and clock alarms;

Whereas, seizure alert/seizure response dogs alert or respond to medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, post-traumatic stress and seizures;

Whereas, medical alert/medical response dogs alert or respond to oncoming medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, post traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas, International Assistance Dog Week, August 4-10, 2013, provides an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the selfless way all types of assistance dogs assist individuals with mitigating their disability-related limitations; and

Whereas, *(Your organization)* is joining forces with assistance dog partners, organizations, and concerned citizens throughout *(your City/County/Parish/State/Tribe)* and America to raise awareness of assistance dogs and observe International Assistance Dog Week;

Now, therefore, I, (insert name), as (Governor/County Executive/Mayor/Other Title) of (insert state), do hereby proclaim the week of August 4-10, 2013, as

Assistance Dog Week

And reaffirm this *(City/County/Parish/State/Tribe's)* commitment to respect, celebrate and recognize assistance dogs and their partners this week and throughout the year in our community.

(signature)

(date)